

Eldridge, Iowa  
March 15, 1950

Miss Blance A. Smith, Librarian  
Iowa State Traveling Library  
State Historical Building  
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Miss Smith:

Enclosed are copies of two letters in which I think you will be interested. Mr. Tipe's letter interests me very much. Who is the librarian out there now?

It seems to have taken this impetus to get me to write to you since arriving in Iowa again. I've had it on my mind ever since I returned; but it's just one of those things that wasn't required to make the wheels get turning, so it just hasn't been done.

The process of getting the wheels turning is pretty slow; but we are making progress; and contrary, I'm sure, to what the library board expected my reaction to the lack of funds to be, I've been pretty happy about it. If the money had been immediately available, it would have been pretty hard to explain to people, so they would understand, just why, when the librarian is there, the driver is there, the bookmobile is there, and some books are there, service can't begin tomorrow! We've been having us a time on a few things; but the telling of them will keep until I see you. Thank heaven for a sense of humor!

We're coming along, though, and in another week or so I think I'll be moving out to the Eldridge headquarters. I've been working here in the room back of the children's room at the DPL ever since I arrived, January 10. Our driver came on the job February 15 and since that time has put up the light fixtures, painted the whole place, and is now sanding the floor and when he's through with that (and what a job that is - cleaning up the floor of what was formerly a tin shop!) he'll go after sanding and finishing the shelving. It's going to be a right neat spot when it's finished, and we're hoping to get the bookmobile on the road shortly after the first of April. There's quite a tale connected with that; but it'll keep.

We're hoping you'll be able to come over when we have our grand opening, or open house, or what have you. I'll let you know in plenty of time.

# State Traveling Library

HISTORICAL BUILDING

Des Moines 19, Iowa

March 21, 1950

BLANCHE A. SMITH  
LIBRARIAN

Miss Betty Hage  
Eldridge  
Iowa

Dear Hage:

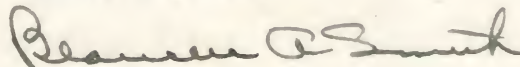
I was delighted to have your good letter in reply to the one you received from Mr. Stipe. And it was very timely, too, for Mr. Cassett of the Clarinda Library Board came in to talk to me the morning it came. They are still so convinced that the Page County plan is better than anything that has ever been thought of to date and I was glad to have this evidence of the fact that there are people who believe that other plans are better - and why.

You have been busy and I have thought of you often. I will be glad to hear about the parts that "will wait" but I think they will be interesting.

I will depend on you to tell us when the big opening will be. I wish Edna Giesler Davidson could be back for it but of course she is wedded to California and it would take more than even the opening of Scott County library service to get her back.

It is good to know that you are back in Iowa and have such a challenging job. I hope you were able to find a pleasant place to live.

Sincerely yours,



Blanche A. Smith, Librarian  
State Traveling Library

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